CDC

RACKET SQUAD

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

Nº 15

10¢

A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

THANKS FOR COMING UP TO MY ROOM TO HELP ME FIND MY RING.... I'M GRATEFUL!!!
HEH, HEH... GRATEFUL, HUH! THIS PHOTO SHOULD BE WORTH $50,000 TO HIM!
10¢
Giordano

IN THIS ISSUE

THE PHOTO-EXTORTION RACKET EXPOSED!

Check the Kind of Body YOU Want! RIGHT IN THE COUPON BELOW

...and I'll Prove How EASILY You Can Have It!

Charles Atlas

Awarded the title of "The World's Most Perfectly Developed Man."

SILVER CUP GIVEN AWAY

12" high. Given to pupil making greatest physical improvement in the next 3 months.

JUST tell me where you want it—and I'll add SOLID INCHES of powerful new muscle SO FAST your friends will grow bug-eyed with wonder!

Do you want me to broaden your shoulders—put trip-hammer power in both your arms—make your legs two pillars of strength? Then just check what you want below. I'll prove you can get it in just 15 minutes a day—in your own home—or it won't cost you a penny!

I don't care if you are 15 or 50 years old—or how ashamed of your present physical condition you may be. I can give you a "barrel chest" and a vise-like grip. I can shoot new strength into your old backbone, exercise those inner organs — help you cram your body so full of pep, vigor and red-blooded vitality that you won't feel there's even "standing room" left for weakness and that lazy feeling. I'll wake up that sleeping energy of yours and make it hum like a high-powered dynamo! You'll *feel* and *look* different. Man, you'll begin to LIVE!

ARE YOU

Skinny, Weak and run down?
Always tired?
Nervous?
Lacking in confidence?
Constipated?
Suffering from bad breath?
Fat and flabby?
Do you want to lose or gain weight?

WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT is told in my FREE BOOK

WHAT'S MY SECRET?

"DYNAMIC TENSION"! That's the ticket! The identical natural method that I myself developed to change my body from the scrawny skinny chested weakling I was at 17 to my present superman physique! Thousands of other fellows are becoming marvelous physical specimens—my way. I give you no gadgets or contraptions to fool with.

When you have learned to develop your strength through "*Dynamic Tension*" you can laugh at the artificial muscle-makers. You simply utilize the DORMANT muscle-power in your own God-given body—watch it increase and multiply double-quick into real solid LIVE MUSCLE.

My method—"*Dynamic Tension*" will turn the trick for you. No theory—so easy! Spend only 15 minutes a day in your own home. From the very start you'll be using my method of "*Dynamic Tension*" almost unconsciously every minute of the day—walking, bending over, etc.—to BUILD THE MUSCLE and VITALITY you want. And *you'll* be using the method which many great athletes use for keeping in condition—prize fighters, wrestlers, baseball and football players, etc.

FREE Illustrated 32-Page Book. Just Mail the Coupon.

SEND NOW for my famous book, "Everlasting Health and Strength." (Over 3½ MILLION fellows have sent for it already.) It contains 32 pages, packed from cover to cover with actual photographs and valuable advice. Shows what "*Dynamic Tension*" has done for others, answers many vital questions. Page by page it shows what I can do for YOU.

This book is a real prize for any fellow who wants a better build. Yet I'll send you a copy absolutely FREE. Just glancing through it may mean the turning point in your whole life! Check the information you want (in the coupon below) and rush it to me personally. CHARLES ATLAS, Dept. 325L, 115 East 23rd St., N. Y. 10, N. Y.

Here's The Kind of Results I Get:

"I gained 11 lbs. and 4¼ inches on my chest, 3 inches on my arms. I am never constipated."
—Henry Heven, Canada

"I gained 34 lbs. and increased my chest 6 inches!"
—Stanley Lynn, Calif.

"What a difference! Have put 3½ inches on my chest (normal) and 2½ inches expanded."
—F. S., New York

"Gained 29 lbs. When I started your course I weighed only 141. Now I weigh 170."
—T. K., New York

"The benefits are wonderful. The first week my arm increased one inch, my chest two inches."
—E. M., Conn.

"You changed me from a weakling to a real he-man. My chest has gone up 6 inches. I am a solid mass of muscle."
—J. W., Montana

CHARLES ATLAS, DEPT. 325L
115 East 23rd St., New York 10, N. Y.

Dear Charles Atlas: Here's the kind of Body I Want:

(*Check as many as you like*)

- ☐ More Weight—Solid—in The Right Places
- ☐ Broader Chest and Shoulders
- ☐ More Powerful Arms and Grip
- ☐ Slimmer Waist and Hips
- ☐ Better Regularity, Digestion, Clearer Skin
- ☐ More Powerful Leg Muscles
- ☐ Better Sleep, More Energy

Send me absolutely FREE a copy of your famous book "Everlasting Health and Strength"—32 pages, crammed with photographs, answers to vital health questions, and valuable advice. I understand this book is mine to keep and sending for it does not obligate me in any way.

Name ..... Age .....
(Please print or write plainly)

Address .....

City ..... State .....

☐ If under 14 years of age check for Booklet A.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION Volume 1, Number 15 March, 1955
Published bimonthly by Charlton Comics Group. Executive offices and office of publication, Charlton Building, Derby, Conn. Entered as Second Class Matter at the Post Office, at Derby, Conn. Price per copy 10c. Subscription 12 issues, $1.20. Copyright 1954 by Charlton Comics Group. Designed by Al Fago Studios. Printed in the U.S.A.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHOLESOME APPROVED READING ENTERTAINMENT

The following outstanding magazines are easily identified on their covers by the words A CHARLTON PUBLICATION

ATOMIC MOUSE ★ BADGE OF JUSTICE ★ BLUE BEETLE ★ COWBOY LOVE ★ COWBOY WESTERN ★ DANGER and ADVENTURE ★ FUNNY ANIMALS—MERRY MAILMAN ★ GABBY HAYES ★ HOT RODS and RACING CARS ★ LASH LaRUE ★ MONTE HALE ★ MY LITTLE MARGIE ★ ROCKY LANE ★ SIX-GUN HEROES ★ SOLDIER and MARINE ★ SPACE ADVENTURES—ROCKY JONES, SPACE RANGER ★ SWEETHEARTS ★ TEX RITTER ★ This Is SUSPENSE ★ TRUE LIFE SECRETS ★ TV TEENS—DON WINSLOW of the NAVY ★ WIN-A-PRIZE ★ ZOO FUNNIES, NYOKA, JUNGLE GIRL

Every effort is made to insure that these comic magazines contain the highest quality of wholesome entertainment. Alfred V. Fago Executive Editor

LOOK THEM OVER

LOOK THEM OVER! TAKE A REAL HARD LOOK! THREE MISERABLE CHARACTERS, AREN'T THEY? YET A SHORT TIME AGO THEY WERE SMARTER THAN THE LAW! SEE THE TWO ON THE LEFT? THEY'RE BLACKIE FARREL AND JOE HAMMOND, BIG-TIME BANK ROBBERS...

YOU'VE HEARD OF HOT MONEY--? STOLEN CURRENCY THAT'S HAD ITS SERIAL NUMBERS POSTED AT ALL RETAIL OUTLETS SO ANYBODY WHO TRIES TO PASS SOME, WILL BE NABBED...! WELL, BLACKIE AND JOE HAD JUST PULLED A BANK JOB, AND THEY WERE LOADED WITH THE HOT STUFF. AND WHEN BLACKIE TOLD JOE HOW THEY WERE GOING TO GET RID OF IT---
WHAT?! YOU GONE NUTS OR SOMETHING?!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

COOL DOWN, JOE--THERE'S NO OTHER WAY! THIS DOUGH'S TOO HOT FOR US TO HANDLE OURSELVES!
O.K., O.K. ..... BUT DOES THAT MEAN WE GOTTA MAKE BELIEVE WE'RE COUNTERFEITERS? OF ALL THE NO-GOOD SCREWY GIMMICKS..!
IT JUST SOUNDS SCREWY, JOE... BUT BELIEVE ME, IT'S A REAL BRAINSTORM! HAVEN'T YOU EVER HEARD OF THE PASSING RACKET? DID YOU THINK COUNTERFEITERS PASS THEIR OWN PHONIES? THERE'S A SET-UP IN EVERY BIG CITY THAT HANDLES JUST THAT AND NOTHING ELSE. THIS IS THE WAY THEY WORK...
THE COUNTERFEITERS CONTACT THE PASSERS. THE PASSERS BUY THE PHONIES OUTRIGHT--THE PRICE BEING HIGH OR LOW DEPENDING ON HOW CLOSE TO REAL MONEY THE PHONEY GREENS LOOK! FROM THERE ON IN, THE WHOLE PASSING OPERATION IS IN THEIR LAPS...!
GET THE PICTURE NOW? IF WE CAN GET A PASSING SYNDICATE THINKING WE'RE COUNTERFEITERS, THEY'LL THINK THE BANKNOTES ARE THE BEST PHONIES THEY'VE EVER SEEN—WHEN ALL THE TIME THEY'RE REAL! AND SINCE THEY KNOW HOW TO GET THE STUFF BACK IN CIRCULATION WITHOUT BEING SPOTTED----
I GETCHA! SO WE CLEAR THIRTY, FORTY PERCENT WITHOUT EVER STICKING OUR NECKS OUT! IT'S A DEAL! WHEN DO WE START...?
THEY STARTED BY SPENDING THEIR OWN MONEY ON SOME PRESSES AND PLATES--- AND HAD THEM SHIPPED TO A CITY WHERE THEY'D NEVER BEEN BEFORE.... WHERE NOBODY IN THE LOCAL RACKETS KNEW THEM.
PRINTERS SUPPLY
2

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THEN, CARRYING THE HOT MONEY, THEY CAUGHT UP WITH THE PRESSES AND PLATES--AND GOT TO WORK SETTING UP A MONEY FACTORY...

IF I WASN'T IN ON THIS DEAL FROM THE START, I'D SWEAR UP AND DOWN THAT THOSE BILLS JUST ROLLED OFF THE PRESSES!

AFTER THAT, VERY CAUTIOUSLY, THEY BEGAN PUTTING OUT THE WORD THAT THEY WANTED TO CONTACT THE LOCAL PASSING SYNDICATE. IT TOOK A LONG TIME BEFORE THEY MADE ANY HEADWAY...

HARRY MOLD SENT US. WE GOT A LOAD OF BEAUTIFUL PHONIES. HE SAID MAYBE YOU KNOW WHO COULD GET RID OF THEM FOR US!

MAYBE I DO. WRITE YOUR ADDRESS DOWN HERE. AND STAY HOME TONIGHT.

THAT NIGHT...

22

BARTENDER DOWN AT RAYMOND STREET SAID YOU MIGHT HAVE SOME WORK FOR ME!

THIS IS A BIG OPERATION. SURE YOU CAN HANDLE IT?

YOU PUNKS ARE NEW AROUND HERE. OTHERWISE YOU'D SPEAK WITH MORE RESPECT. I'M ED MORGAN. ASK ANYBODY IN THE KNOW. THEY'LL TELL YOU ED MORGAN HANDLES NOTHING BUT BIG OPERATIONS. LET'S SEE WHAT YOU HAVE! I'M A BUSY MAN...!

SO THEY LET HIM IN.....

SAY! YOU BOYS ARE ARTISTS! THESE ARE SO GOOD, THEY LOOK AND FEEL EXACTLY LIKE THE REAL STUFF!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO--I.... I'VE NEVER GONE THIS HIGH BEFORE, BUT FOR THIS STUFF IF IT'S ALL THE SAME QUALITY, I'LL GIVE YOU FORTY REAL CENTS FOR EVERY PHONY DOLLAR!
ONLY FORTY PERCENT? YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WE HAD TO PAY FOR THE PLATES ALONE?

FORTY-FIVE PERCENT! IF I WENT ANY HIGHER I'D BE CUTTING MY OWN THROAT!
IT'S A DEAL--CASH ON DELIVERY! WE HAVE OVER THREE HUNDRED GRAND PRINTED! WHEN WILL YOU PICK IT UP?

TH-THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL! I'VE BEEN HANDLING PHONIES FOR YEARS NOW, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THEM BEFORE! I...I'LL RAISE THE MONEY--I'LL GET IT SOME WAY! BUT NOT ALL AT ONCE--I'LL PICK UP THE FIRST LOAD INSIDE OF A WEEK! JUST SIT TIGHT!

AND MORGAN PICKED UP THE FIRST LOAD FOUR NIGHTS LATER. HIS PASSERS GOT RIGHT TO WORK. THEY SPREAD ALL OVER TOWN, MAKING SMALL PURCHASES AT BUSY COUNTERS, GETTING CHANGE FOR THE BIG BILLS THEY THOUGHT WERE MARVELOUS COUNTERFEITS!

IT TOOK THREE WEEKS BEFORE WE GOT THE FIRST REPORT AT HEADQUARTERS--

THAT'S ONE OF THE SERIAL NUMBERS ALL RIGHT. SEND A REPORT TO THE NEW JERSEY POLICE. THIS IS THE FIRST LEAD THERE'S BEEN ON THAT $300,000 BANK JOB THEY HAD LAST SPRING. AND CALL IN THE SALESCLERK WHO TOOK THE BILL!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

BLACKIE WAS RIGHT. IT WAS SLOW WORK, AND IT WASN'T EASY WAITING--HAVING MEALS SENT IN, NEVER GOING OUT ONCE. BUT THEY PLAYED IT SAFE...

YOU SEE THE PAPER ? SECOND PAY-ROLL JOB THIS MONTH IN THIS BURG.
YEAH, AND THAT PAY-ROLL DOUGH IS JUST AS HOT AS THE DOUGH WE GRABBED. I WONDER HOW THOSE GUYS ARE GETTING RID OF THEIR DOUGH ?

BUT AT LAST...
HERE IT IS, BOYS...HERE'S YOUR CASH FOR THE LAST LOAD!
IT WAS A PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, MORGAN...A REAL PLEASURE!

THEY'D BEEN COOPED UP SO LONG, THEY FELT NOW LIKE TWO EX-CONVICTS WHO'D JUST WALKED OUT THROUGH THE BIG GATE. AND THE FORTY-FIVE PERCENT OF THREE HUNDRED GRAND THAT MORGAN HAD PAID THEM WAS BURNING HOLES IN THEIR POCKETS. FIRST THING THEY DID WAS BUY THEMSELVES SOME NEW SUITS...

THEN THEY MADE A FREE-SPENDING TOUR OF THE LOCAL NIGHTCLUBS....

AND THEN WE NABBED THEM!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THE PHONIES THEY WERE PEDDLING LOOKED SO PERFECT...I-I JUST COULDN'T LET THEM GO BY! BUT I NEEDED A LOT OF MONEY TO GET MY HANDS ON THEM--IT WAS CASH ON DELIVERY OR (SOB) NO DEAL! SO I GOT IN WITH THIS OUTFIT THAT PULLED THE PAYROLL JOBS, AND PAID BLACKIE AND JOE OFF WITH MY SPLIT! I-I THOUGHT I'D HAVE TIME TO GET OUT OF THE COUNTRY BEFORE THEY BEGAN SPENDING WHAT I GAVE THEM...!

THEY ALL KNOW WHAT'S WHAT NOW---BUT WHERE THEY'RE GOING, IT WON'T DO THEM ANY GOOD..! LOOK THEM OVER! TAKE A REAL HARD LOOK! THREE MISERABLE CHARACTERS, AREN'T THEY? YET A SHORT TIME AGO THEY WERE THINKING THEY WERE SMARTER THAN THE LAW!
The End

LIMITED EDITION!

...AND I'M OFFERING...AT A FRACTION OF THEIR WORTH... PORTRAITS OF GEORGE WASHINGTON, THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY. THESE PICTURES ARE AUTHENTIC PRINTS MADE FROM FINEST STEEL ENGRAVINGS... ISSUED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT!
$1.00
BECAUSE THESE MAGNIFICENT PORTRAITS ARE SLIGHTLY DAMAGED, I'M ABLE TO SELL THESE OFFICIAL PICTURES AT A RIDICULOUSLY LOW ONE DOLLAR! STEP RIGHT UP AND GET 'EM WHILE THEY LAST!
CAN'T GET TOO FAR OFF BASE FOR A BUCK, LEW! C'MON!
THE KID'S STUDYING AMERICAN HISTORY IN SCHOOL RIGHT NOW... THIS PORTRAIT OF OL' GEORGE'LL COME IN MIGHTY HANDY!
ONLY A FEW LEFT, GENTS...HURRY... HURRY! THIS IS A REAL LIMITED EDITION!
I'M GONNA HANG MINE IN THE DEN! MARGE IS ALWAYS PESTERING ME TO GET A PICTURE TO PUT UP ON THE WALL...
WHAT THE DEVIL KIND OF GLUE THEY PUT ON THIS ENVELOPE? THIS DARN THING...AHHH! NOW LET'S SEE OUR BARGAIN!
W-WHY...THAT DIRTY SKUNK! WHERE... WHERE'D THE RAT GO?
HUH? HE'S RIGHT HERE...NO! HE...HE SEEMS TO HAVE GONE! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WE BEEN TRICKED BY THAT SLIMY CROOK, THAT'S WHAT'S THE MATTER! LOOK IN YOUR OWN ENVELOPE... THAT OFFICIAL AND SLIGHTLY DAMAGED PORTRAIT OF GEORGE WASHINGTON... IT'S NOTHING BUT A USED POSTAGE STAMP!

BLACKMAIL
DICK GIORDANO
...AN STAY OUT, YA PUNK!
BA
GRI
PUNK...I'M SICK AN' TIRED OF THEM ALL CALLIN' ME PUNK! SO WHAT IF I'M YOUNGER THAN THEM? I'M JUST AS TOUGH...AN' I GOT JUST AS MUCH BRAINS! ALL I NEED IS A LITTLE DOUGH TO SET MYSELF UP IN MY OWN RACKET--- AN' THEN THEY'LL SEE WHO'S A PUNK!
UGH.. ALL HE NEEDED WAS A LITTLE DOUGH...AND WITH HIS BRAINS AND KNOW-HOW, HE'D BE ON TOP OF THE SUCCESS-LADDER BEFORE YOU COULD BREATHE THE WORD: BLACKMAIL! HE KEPT SLOUCHING ALONG, HIS HEAD HANGING LOW, THAT'S HOW HE SAW THE WALLET--
HEY!

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WHAT A BREAK! FOUR HUNDRED BUCKS HERE! I'M ALL SET... I CAN START OPERATIN' RIGHT NOW. NOBODY AROUND HERE'S EVER HEARD OF TERRY STRATTON A PUNK AGAIN....
PUNK!
NOW WE BEGAN PAYING OUT THAT FOUR HUNDRED
DOT WENT ALONG WITH HIM WHEN HE BOUGHT THE CAMERA
WE'RE BROKE ON MAIN STREET AGAIN THERE'S NO RACKET THAT PAYS OFF LIKE THIS ONE
CAMERA SHOP
EVERYTHING'S SET... SHE GETS UP EARLY... THEN I'LL PUT IN A CALL
I'M JUMPIN' INTO BLACKMAIL RACKET WHAT I'VE BEEN DREAMIN
WE PUNK.

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

AND SOON AS THE CUSTOMER HAD SPOTTED IT, DOT WENT IN-
OH, YOU GREAT BIG, WONDERFUL MAN
HEY!
MMPFF GLLLLB!
BREAK DOT'S STRANGLEHOLD
BLACKMAIL!
BUSINESS
AIEE!
NOT A BACKWATER ALIBI WHO DOESN'T HAVE A HOLE IN THE HEAD BUT YOU TAKE THE CAKE! I THOUGHT YOU HAD A STRANGLEHOLD ON THE WORLD DON'T YOU? EVERYTHING WAS ALL FIGURED OUT YOU WERE ON YOUR WAY TO MAKE A MILLION KNOW WHAT YOU DO? SPOIL OF ALL THE PEOPLE AROUND ..
YOU PAYED ME TO BLACKMAIL ME, THE HOUSE DETECTIVE! SO ME ..ONLY A RAT! UTTLE PUNK LIKE YOU COULD PULL A BONER LIKE THAT!
THE END

DOUBLE TROUBLE!
THAT... WOW!
SHOW

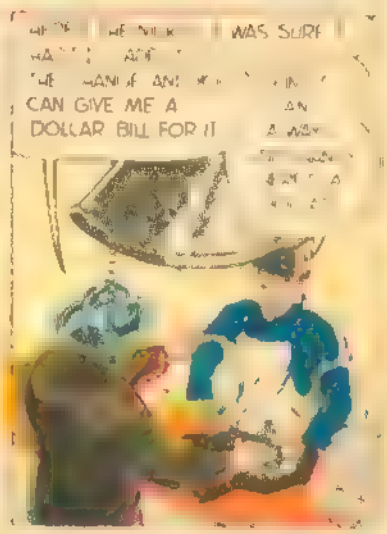
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

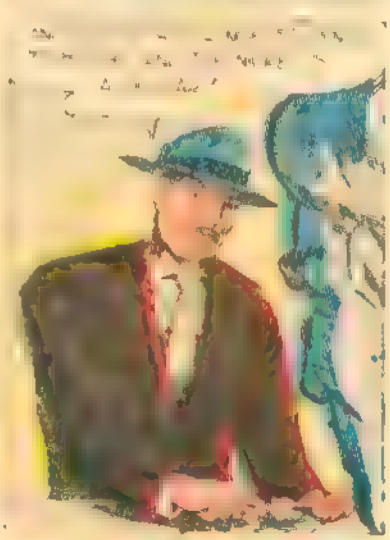
The TWO BUCK HYPE

WATCH OUT FOR THIS SHORT CHANGE GYP

R. Giordano

ALL I WANT'S A PACK OF CHEWING GUM I THOUGHT I HAD AN ODD NICKEL BUT MY SMALL CHANGE IS THIS TWO DOLLAR BILL
THAT'S QUITE ALL RIGHT





L[illegible] BROUGHT BACK A DOLLAR BILL OF HIS OWN WHEN HE HANDED OVER THE TWO SPOT AT THE [illegible]

PHOTO FINISH

WALKING out of the little photo shop on Christopher and Pine, Patrolman First Class Michael O'Day smiled happily as he thrust an envelope of developed prints into his coat pocket. It was six o'clock on a balmy evening, and Officer O'Day was in plain clothes, on his way to have dinner at the home of his girl friend, Betty Taylor. The young policeman began to hum gayly as he walked down the street. Turning a corner, he patted the envelope of photographs he had in his pocket. They were pictures taken at a picnic he had enjoyed with Betty the last week-end. Tonight they'd be able to look at the pictures and laugh at the memory of ants getting into the angel cake, and of him diving into the lake—still wearing his wrist watch!

Michael O'Day shook his head, chuckling at the thought.

"Lucky it was waterproof," he mused. Then he turned in the driveway of the trim brick house, his heels clicking on the concrete.

Suddenly his brow furrowed. Were his ears playing tricks on him? He seemed to hear someone walking just behind him! There was an unmistakable scraping sound—a rustling noise!! Michael O'Day tensed and began to whirl about . . . but he was too late! A heavy blackjack hurtled down through the air and slammed, with stunning force, against the back of his head. The young policeman felt a wave of pain wash through him—and then, suddenly, no feeling at all. He sank forward quietly, against the front door, and lay there, quite still.

Fifteen minutes later, Betty, being worried, went to the door and began to open it. Seeing Michael lying there, she screamed. Then, being a policeman's future wife, she forced herself to be practical. Running for a pitcher of water, she poured it over his head.

Michael came to promptly. He sat up, rubbing the lump on the back of his head. Then, suddenly, he patted his pockets.

"Watch still there," he said slowly. "Wallet and billfold okay. Reckon they didn't take anything." Suddenly his expression changed and he stood up. "But they did. The photos! They're missing!"

"What photos?" Betty asked. "What is this all about?"

"I don't know," the young patrolman said. "Somebody slugged me as I was coming up the walk—and all he took was the envelope of pictures we took at the picnic last week-end."

He turned abruptly.

"Sorry about dinner, Betty," he said, "but I can't stay. I'm going back to headquarters. I think Gus will want to hear about this!"

Chief of Police Augustus Schmidt, known to all as Gus, sat back in his big swivel chair. He smiled fondly at Michael O'Day. A rookie cop—nice, but a little dumb sometimes.

"I see you got a lump, Mike," he said. "So it isn't imagination. And so maybe someone did take your photographs. Some crackpot. But why come to me? Next time, just keep looking behind you!" Again he smiled. "Okay?"

"No!" replied Michael O'Day, leaning forward. "I got a hunch, or I wouldn't have bothered you, Chief, for the last two months, someone's been distributing narcotics in this town! Right? A lot of poor fools have fallen victim to this rat—and have started ruining their lives! You've caught one or two of the peddlers—but not the big boy! Right?"

Gus Schmidt nodded. "Right. And when I get him, I'll send him up. What has that got to do with—"

"Plenty!" Patrolman O'Day broke in. "A photo shop like this would be a perfect place to handle the stuff. People come in and out all day, and walk away with little envelopes. Who'd get wise? I've got a hunch that maybe they slipped me the wrong envelope by mistake. Then realizing it, they came after me and got it back—fast." He hesitated. "Look! The dope racket started in this town about two months ago! Let's see how long that store's been in operation. If the two dates jibe . . ."

Chief of Police Schmidt picked up the telephone.

"Commissioner of Licenses," he said softly. He talked into the phone for a few moments. Then he put it down and looked up. For the first time excitement blazed in his eyes.

"Michael, boy," he said, "I think you've got something. That photo shop on Christopher and Pine opened up nine weeks ago. A week later—we began to round up drug distributors. It's too close for coincidence." He smiled. "Son, you've got yourself a job. I'm putting you and a half-dozen other detectives and policemen on this assignment. Keep your eye on that store. See who goes in and goes out. Shadow them. And when the first big delivery is made—hit them fast and grab them. Get it?"

Michael O'Day rose, his face eager. The lump on the back of his head was forgotten. He had a job to do.

"I got it, G-Gus," he stammered. "I m-mean, Chief."

"Gus is okay," the chief said. "Now go ahead."

For five nights they watched the little photo shop. Lookouts were stationed in an apartment building across the street, and in a truck parked down the road. Michael O'Day was in the truck, with a plainclothes policeman and, occasionally, Chief of Police Augustus Schmidt. On the sixth night, the police head came in again, to find out what progress was being made.

"We've spotted several runners going in and out," Patrolman O'Day reported. "We recognized them from the list of suspects at headquarters . . . but we haven't picked them up. Instead, we've had them tailed. So far, they've led us nowhere. And we've been waiting for a delivery. According to your orders, that's when we crack down!"

"Check!" the police chief nodded. "That's the only time—"

He broke off as a small delivery truck pulled up next to the photo store. Then he relaxed. "Nothing," he said. "Sign on the side of the truck says 'Fluorescent Light Service.' There goes a messenger in with some packages. Probably replacing the fluorescent light tubes in the store . . ."

"Oh, yeah?" muttered Michael O'Day. "With them using regular electric lights in the store? I've *been* in there! That truck's a blind! Let's go!"

At his words, the other plainclothesman pressed the horn of the police truck three times. It was the agreed-on signal.

Patrolman O'Day lunged from the truck, gun in hand, with the police chief right behind him. Together they ran toward the store. At the same moment, three policemen and detectives sprang from the apartment house across the street, drawing their service revolvers. The messenger was about to enter the photo shop when he saw what was happening.

Turning quickly, he dashed back to the truck, shouting to the driver, "It's a trap! Gun the motor!"

But, even as he spoke, the policeman in the truck up the street slammed his clutch down, shot his car into gear, and careened down the street, blocking the way. In a matter of seconds, when the drug messenger attempted to bolt from the truck, he found three revolvers pointing at him. Slowly, his hands rose. At the same time, Michael O'Day and Gus Schmidt forced their way into the photo store. Quickly, they stood the proprietor and a husky clerk against the wall and searched them. That search—and an examination of the packages that the messenger had been bringing in—revealed some very interesting contents.

When it was over, four guns and several pounds of heroin and cocaine lay on the counter of the store.

The proof had been collected, and the man who could lead the police to the nerve center of the gang—the messenger—had been captured. It was a good night's work. Chief of Police Gus Schmidt mopped his shining forehead and turned to young Michael O'Day.

"MIKE," he said, "your guess was right the first time. The gang probably set up this store as a distributing center for dope peddlers. If they hadn't given you that envelope containing dope by mistake—and then slugged you on the bean to get it back—we might still be looking for them. Good work, kid!" Then he stopped. "Why so worried-looking, son? You've just won yourself a promotion, and here you look as if the heavens fell in. What's the trouble?"

"I-I got to go!" Michael O'Day said. "I haven't seen my girl for six nights now—and she told me that if I didn't come over tonight, it would be all over between us! G-Goodbye, chief!"

Still holding his gun, he ran out of the store and up the street.

THE END

BEWARE
OF THE
SWAMI!

CRYSTAL GLOBE...

WHO...SENT...YOU...
TO...ME ?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

SWAMI... WILL THE GLOBE DO THAT FOR ME AGAIN? IF I BRING MORE MONEY A BIG SUM WILL IT DOUBLE IT AGAIN?
WHAT?!
HE ALWAYS MADE A PRETENSION OF RELUCTANCE BUT AFTER PLAYING HARD FOR JUST THE RIGHT LENGTH OF TIME SOMETIMES KEEPING HE LET HIMSELF BE PERSUADED.
AND NOW WHAT HE CALLED THE PAY-OFF SEANCE---
RETURN TO YOUR HOME AGAIN IN YOUR INNERMOST HEART: I BELIEVE... I BELIEVE!
ALWAYS THAT NIGHT
I BELIEVE...I BELIEVE!
TIME FOR US TO LEAVE TOWN!
NOT BAD FOR TWO MONTHS WORK.
RACKET! PUMPING HER DRY! HER WITH ALL YOU KNOW ABOUT HER PRIVATE LIFE...THEN STEERING HER
JULIE. THE WHOLE THEN PALMING THE

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THERE HAD TO BE A SLIP ALWAYS WHEN YOU'RE WORKING
WARN-ED SEANCE!
RACKET SQUAD!
ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT WITH THE SWAMI
PLEASE I NEED HELP
BE SILENT, LET THE CRYSTAL GLOBE REVEAL TO ME WHAT IS HAPPENING AT YOUR HOUSE..
BRRR R-R-R!

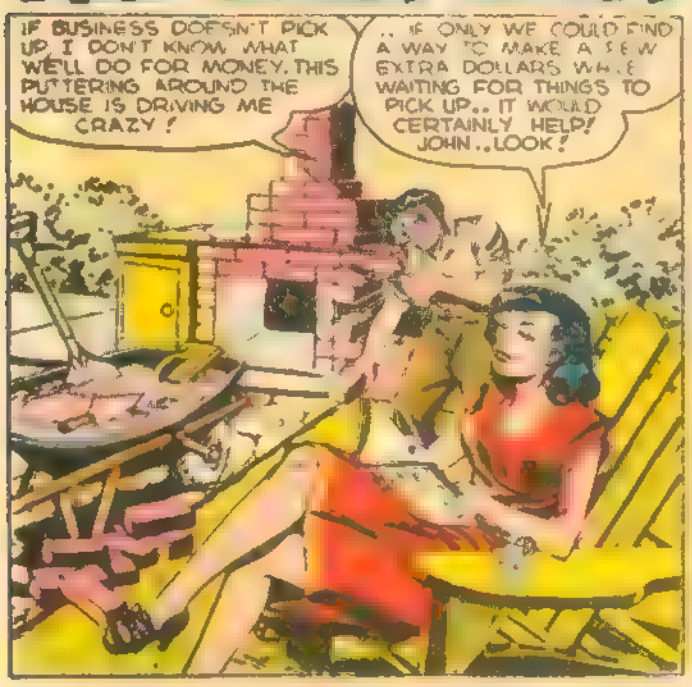
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

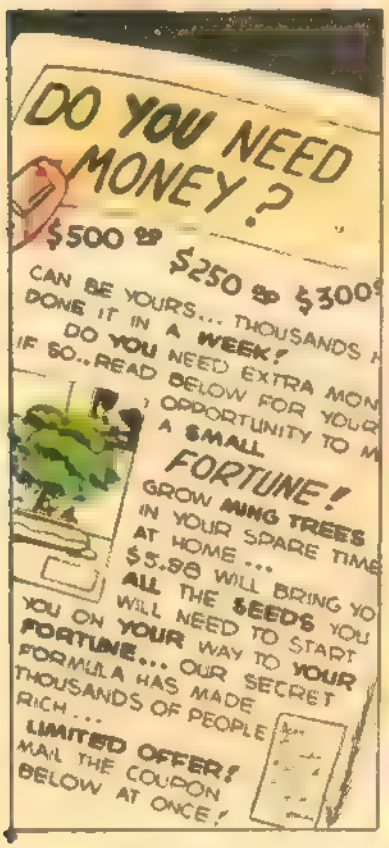
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

LOOKING FOR A WAY TO MAKE EXTRA MONEY? WE ALL ARE.. AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER! BUT LOOK TWICE BEFORE YOU TRY..FOR IT MAY BE...

NO BARGAIN


IF BUSINESS DOESN'T PICK UP, I DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'LL DO FOR MONEY. THIS PUTTERING AROUND THE HOUSE IS DRIVING ME CRAZY!
.. IF ONLY WE COULD FIND A WAY TO MAKE A FEW EXTRA DOLLARS WHILE WAITING FOR THINGS TO PICK UP.. IT WOULD CERTAINLY HELP! JOHN..LOOK!


DO YOU NEED MONEY?
$500 $250 $300
CAN BE YOURS... THOUSANDS
DONE IT IN A WEEK!
DO YOU NEED EXTRA MON
IF SO..READ BELOW FOR YOUR
OPPORTUNITY TO M
A SMALL FORTUNE!
GROW MING TREES IN YOUR SPARE TIME AT HOME ...
$5.98 WILL BRING YO
ALL THE SEEDS YOU WILL NEED TO START YOU ON YOUR WAY TO YOUR FORTUNE... OUR SECRET FORMULA HAS MADE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE RICH...
LIMITED OFFER! MAIL THE COUPON BELOW AT ONCE!

..SAY... THAT DOESN'T SOUND TOO BAD. AND IT SAYS THAT P.J. JONES OF CHICAGO MADE $500 THE FIRST WEEK! I'LL WRITE A CHECK AND MAIL IT RIGHT OUT TO THEM!

THE FOLLOWING WEEK A SMALL ENVELOPE ARRIVED IN THE MAIL...

IS THIS ALL WE GET FOR $5.98? IT [illegible] WORTH MORE THAN A QUARTER!
LISTEN TO THIS.. "IN ORDER TO GROW MINIATURE MING TREES [illegible] NEED OUR SECRET FORMULA! SEND US AN ADDITIONAL $10 AND IT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU.." BOY.. WE SURE WERE TAKEN IN!

ARLENE WELDON WAS A VERY MERRY WIDOW WITH PLENTY TO LIVE FOR UNTIL SHE MET UP WITH
The Lonely Hearts RACKET
THE HEADING OF LONELY HEARTS HAS BECOME BIG BUSINESS IN AMERICA, SO BIG THAT IT ATTRACTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HUMAN PARASITES TO PREY ON THE UNWILLING AND OUR GALT THAT WAS ONE OF HIS NAMES BE ADDED TO THE BAD THERMOMETER OF BUZZARDS HE'D TAKEN ONE TRICK AFTER ANOTHER AND ARLENE WELDON WAS NEXT IN LINE BUT ARLENE HADN'T ANY IDEA OF WHAT LAY AHEAD THAT DAY SHE CHATTED WITH HER SISTER, CLAIRE BLANKS.
SOME LONELY HEARTS CLUBS ARE LEGITIMATE BUT NOT THE ONE IN THIS STORY.
ARLENE IT'S BEEN A YEAR NOW SINCE GEORGE DIED YOU REALLY SHOULD BE MAKING FUTURE PLANS
I AM CLAIRE. LOOK WHAT CAME IN THE MAIL TODAY!
Vera Boulle
DIRECTOR
A LONELY HEART CLUB? YOU MEAN YOU'RE JOINING THEM?
OF

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

THAT SAME EVENING
IT'S PETE JOYCE, ARLENE ..
BUT PETE HAS A GOOD JOB...
AND SO DID GEORGE. WE NEVER WENT ANYWHERE OR DID ANYTHING ! I WANT TO MEET MEN WHO ARE DIFFERENT... AND ROMANTIC !
I AM SURE YOU WILL BE A VERY VALUABLE ADDITION TO OUR GENTLEMEN MEMBERS OF OUR CIRCLE. WE ARE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU WITH US !
LATER .
THERE'S THE CARD YOU WANTED TO SEE MR CHANNING .
HMM. ARLENE WELDON, 27 WIDOW, THREE BANK ACCOUNTS.. NOT BAD ! I MUST HAVE A LOOK AT HER !
THAT'S ARLENE WELDON !
USUAL TERMS
SO GLAD YOU ENJOYED YOURSELF, MRS. WELDON. YOU KNOW WE ARRANGE INDIVIDUAL INTRODUCTIONS, IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED...
I MIGHT BE WHY DON'T YOU PHONE ME ?

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

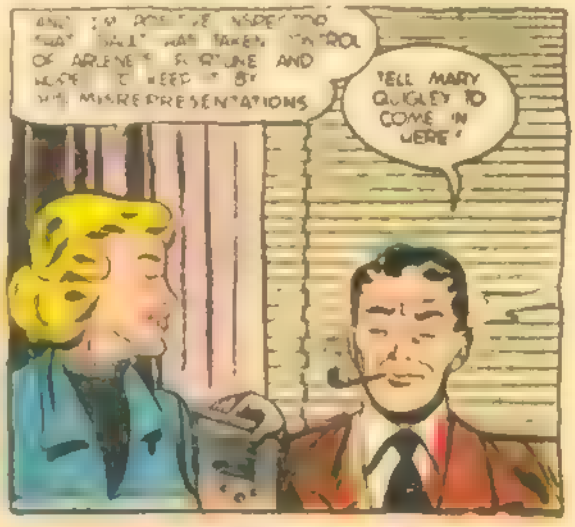
WITHIN A FEW DAYS ARLENE WILCOX RECEIVED THE EXPECTED CALL
DEBONAIR GENTLEMAN NAMED ARTHUR GAULT "
DEAR DEAR, IT'S SO LATE AND I HAVE A BUSINESS TO RUN, YOU KNOW! THANKS FOR THE LOVELY LUNCH!
I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND CLAIRE COMING ALONG WITH US FOR THE DRIVE?
MAY SHOULD MIND?
DESPITE
RAPID FIRE ROMANCE, ARLENE AND GAULT WERE MARRIED BY AN ACCOMPLICE OF GAULT POSING AS A JUSTICE OF PEACE

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

WE TO BE THERE TO
WHEN WE GET BACK TO THE HOTEL. TOO BAD THAT BIG STOCK DEAL
AIRPLANE TRANS-ACTION FOR TODAY!
MY PARTNER HAS UP AT THE CABIN, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE
ARE G
OF COURSE I
DEAR I REALIZE
QUITE A LARGE SUM OF MONEY
LISTEN BRAD
O.K. AND YOU WANT ME TO DETAIN HER HERE UNTIL UNTIL YOU PHONE HER TO RETURN THERE I'LL MAKE IT CONVINCING!
AH, THERE'S CLARE AND ER THAT LOOKS LIKE PETE JOYCE WITH HER. MMMM HE'S A SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR I MUST TRY TO GET THEM TO LEAVE HERE AT ONCE
STD
AND I
RETURNED TO THE CITY!
WELL JUST AS I THOUGHT I ALWAYS
GAULT IS UP TO SOMETHING. DO YOU REALLY THINK ARLENE LEFT?
WAIT, PETE. I'LL GO TO HIS HOTEL. I'LL SEE WHAT I CAN FIND OUT!

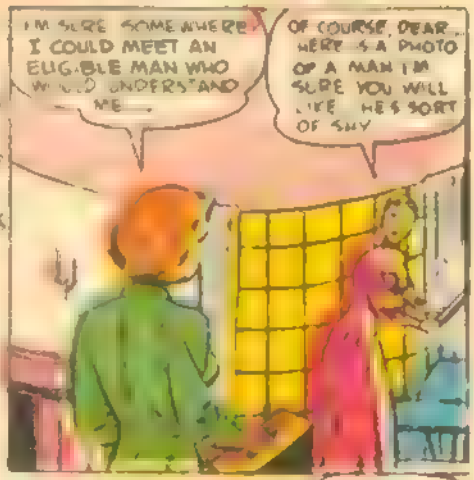
RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

IN DESPERATION CLAIRE CAME TO MY [illegible] AND GAVE ME WHAT VAGUE CLUES SHE HAD..

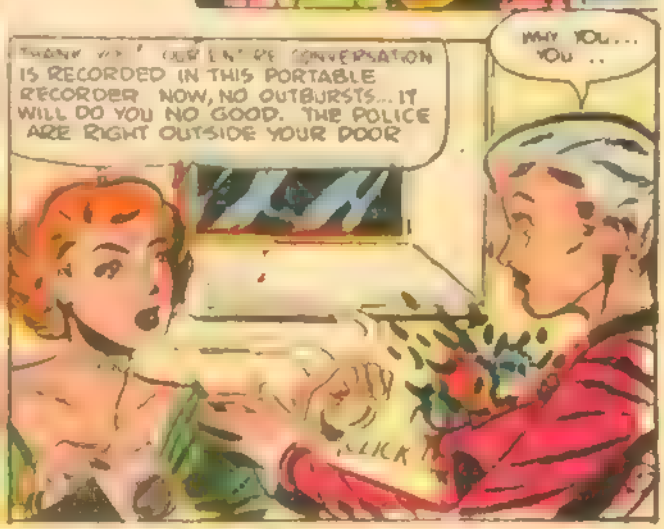

AND I'M POSITIVE I SPOTTED THAT [illegible] WAS TAKEN IN CONTROL OF ARLENE'S FORTUNE AND HOPE I CAN KEEP IT BY MY MISREPRESENTATIONS
TELL MARY QUIGLEY TO COME IN HERE!

MISS QUIGLEY YOU ARE TO JOIN THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE YOU WILL BE PROVIDED WITH ALL THE NECESSARY PAPERS AND BANK BOOKS THAT WILL MAKE YOU APPEAR VERY WEALTHY AND LIKELY BAIT YOU WILL ALSO HAVE A POLICE GUARD NEAR. WITHIN YOUR HEARING!
THANK YOU I'LL TAKE ALONG ALL OF MY NECESSARY EQUIPMENT

THE FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE LOST NO TIME IN SPREADING THE NEWS THAT MARY QUIGLEY WAS A WEALTHY AND ATTRACTIVE GIRL WITH [illegible] BANK ACCOUNTS, WHICH WERE SO CAREFULLY PREPARED BY HER...


I'M SURE SOMEWHERE I COULD MEET AN ELIGIBLE MAN WHO WOULD UNDERSTAND ME
OF COURSE, DEAR... HERE'S A PHOTO OF A MAN I'M SURE YOU WILL LIKE HE'S SORT OF SHY

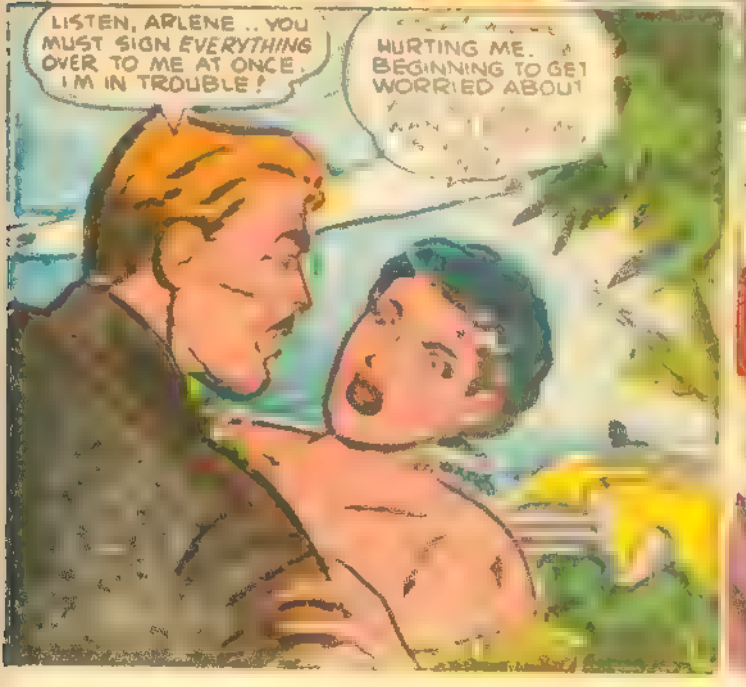
THIS MAN IS A SINGLE HIS NAME IS RAY CHANNING AND HE COULD BE YOU KNOW IF YOU COULD YOU $ SHOULD HAVE ARRANGED A MEETING FOR YOU!
$ OH DEAR ME! THAT'S [illegible] ER HIS NAME WOULD NOT BE ARTHUR [illegible] RAY CHANNING?

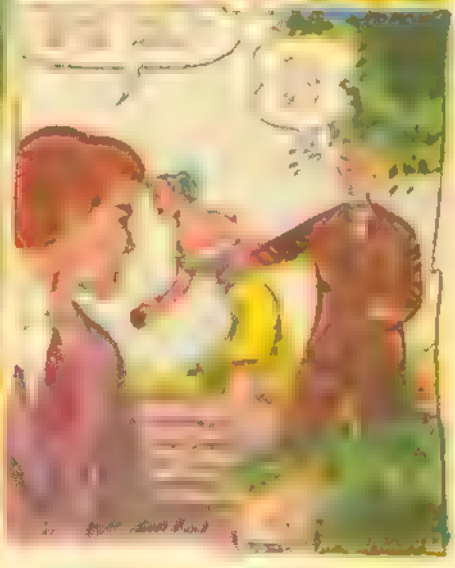

THANK YOU! OUR ENTIRE CONVERSATION IS RECORDED IN THIS PORTABLE RECORDER NOW, NO OUTBURSTS... IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. THE POLICE ARE RIGHT OUTSIDE YOUR DOOR
WHY YOU... YOU..
CLICK

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

RACKET SQUAD IN ACTION

GAULT HAD TO ACT SWIFTLY. HE TR
TO GET ARLENE AWAY
ONE SO HE COULD PERSU
GIVE HIM ALL HER FORTUNE FOR HIS
PHONEY BUSINESS DEALS AND THEN

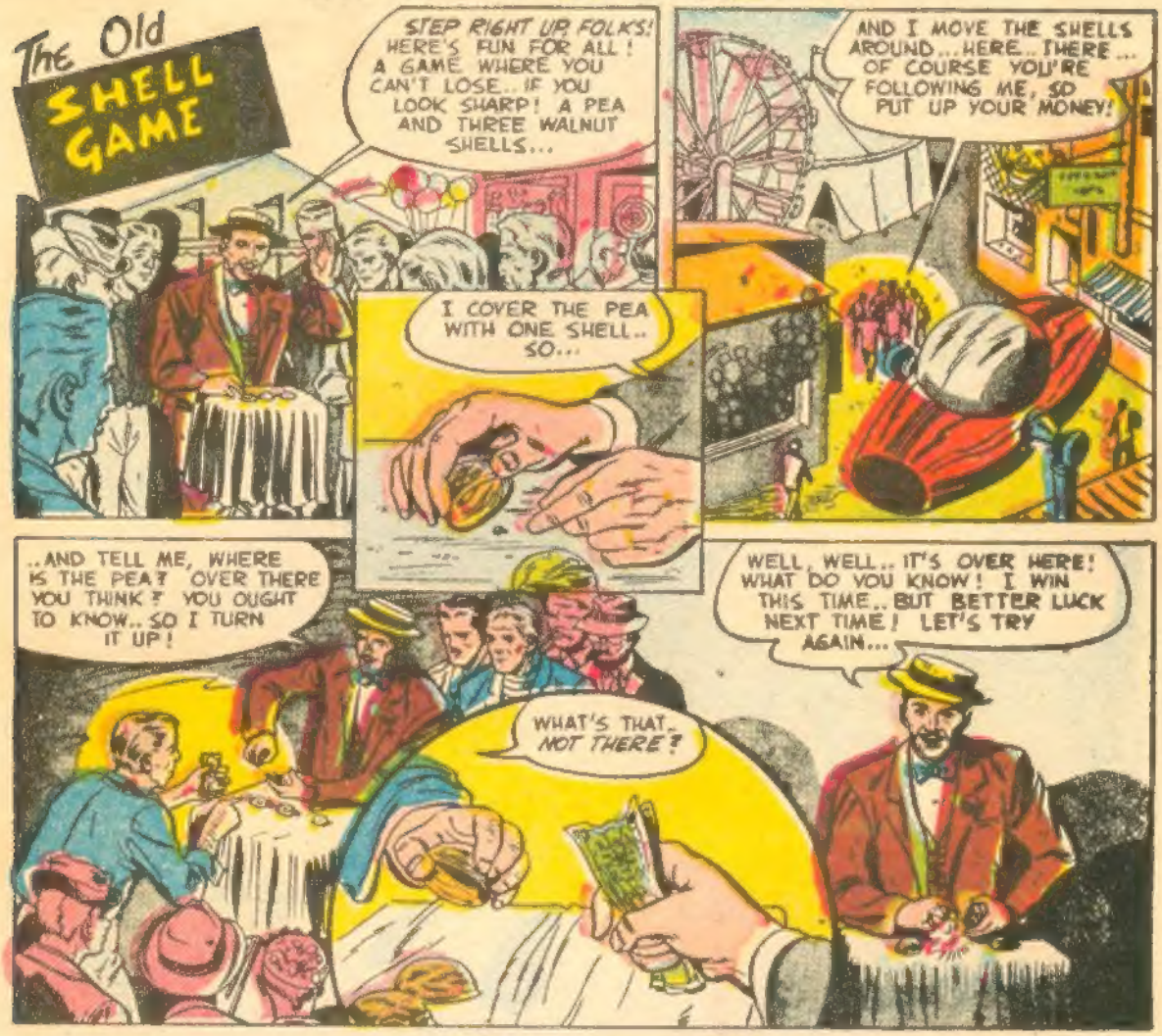


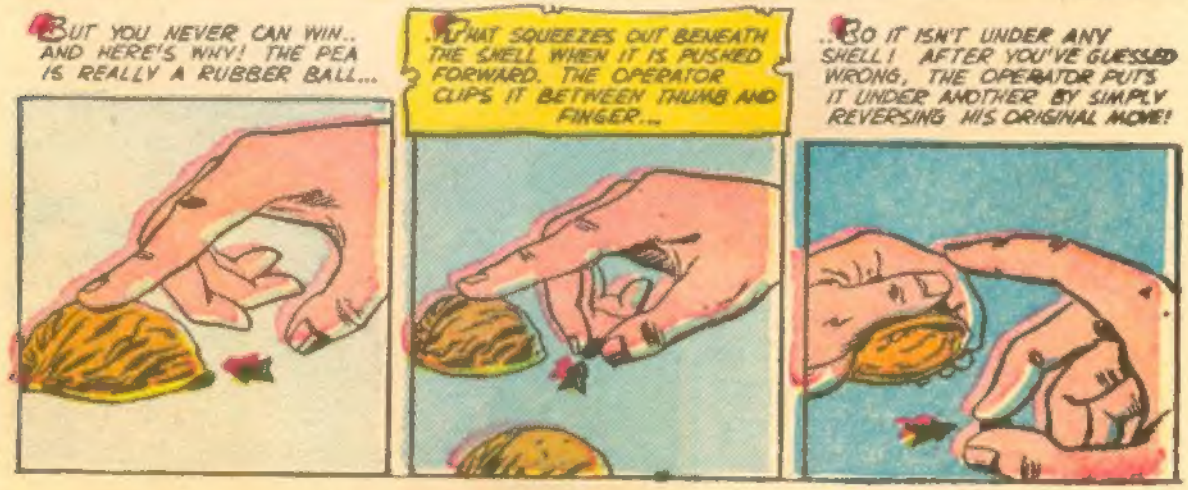


Rracket Squad in Action

AAHHH!
HELP! GET ME OFF OF HERE
IN ARLENE'S CASE HE GOT TOO GREEDY AND HIS PAST CAUGHT UP WITH HIM AND THAT WAS THE END OF HER FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

IT'S A RACKET!


The Old SHELL GAME
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! HERE'S FUN FOR ALL! A GAME WHERE YOU CAN'T LOSE.. IF YOU LOOK SHARP! A PEA AND THREE WALNUT SHELLS...
I COVER THE PEA WITH ONE SHELL.. SO...
AND I MOVE THE SHELLS AROUND... HERE.. THERE... OF COURSE YOU'RE FOLLOWING ME, SO PUT UP YOUR MONEY!
..AND TELL ME, WHERE IS THE PEA? OVER THERE YOU THINK? YOU OUGHT TO KNOW.. SO I TURN IT UP!
WELL, WELL.. IT'S OVER HERE! WHAT DO YOU KNOW! I WIN THIS TIME.. BUT BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME! LET'S TRY AGAIN...
WHAT'S THAT.. NOT THERE?


BUT YOU NEVER CAN WIN.. AND HERE'S WHY! THE PEA IS REALLY A RUBBER BALL...
..WHAT SQUEEZES OUT BENEATH THE SHELL WHEN IT IS PUSHED FORWARD. THE OPERATOR CLIPS IT BETWEEN THUMB AND FINGER...
..SO IT ISN'T UNDER ANY SHELL! AFTER YOU'VE GUESSED WRONG, THE OPERATOR PUTS IT UNDER ANOTHER BY SIMPLY REVERSING HIS ORIGINAL MOVE!

Now, Buddy YOU GET ALL THESE 5 PICTURE PACKED COURSES **FREE** if you mail coupon NOW as I did!

HOW in 10 Minutes of Fun a Day YOU Can Become AN AMAZING NEW 3-D HE-MAN

Like We Did

May be LAST CHANCE before $1 price goes back!

Clip and return →

← NOW

JIM NORMAN ◀ before NOW ▶ I gained 1000% in HE-MAN LOOKS POPULARITY and STRENGTH

1 HOW TO BUILD A MIGHTY CHEST

2 HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY ARM

I gained 70 lbs. of MIGHTY MUSCLE Won a BIG SILVER TROPHY and made the football team. I was a 90 lb. Skeleton before, says Cleveland.

I changed myself from this ANEMIC SHRIMP → to this MUSCULAR HE-MAN

I added 6 inches to each ARM 10 inches to my CHEST says Ken Grimm.

3 HOW TO BUILD A MIGHTY BACK

I GAINED 53 lbs. OF SHAPELY POWER-PACKED MUSCLES

I Was a Skinny, Scared, Girl-Shy Skeleton. Now My Body is the Best in the Neighborhood. Pal—Do as I Did—Mail The Coupon Below.

4 HOW TO BUILD MIGHTY LEGS

HOW TO MOLD A MIGHTY GRIP By GEORGE CAPWELL 5

NOW—YOU MAIL COUPON and GET ALL 5 COURSES FREE

LOOK at ME and MY PALS! What a Pitiful lot of SKINNY WRECKS like YOU We were BEFORE We mailed coupon! Yes, PAL—NOW YOU MAIL THE COUPON BELOW and Get a NEW HE-MAN BODY for Your OLD SKELETON FRAME!

YOU CAN WIN $100.00 AND A BIG 15" TALL SILVER CUP LIKE WE DID!

NO! Friend you don't have to be SKINNY, WEAK or FLABBY any more—just mail the FREE coupon below as I did! But DO IT NOW as This may be YOUR LAST CHANCE!

LAST CHANCE—ALL FREE COUPON

Dept. CH-412

Tell Me How To Win $100.00!

NAME ..... AGE .....

ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... ZONE ..... STATE .....

MAIL NOW! SAVES YOU YEARS and DOLLARS!

MAIL COUPON IN TIME FOR FREE OFFER AND PRIZES!

J. E. SMITH has trained more men for Radio-Television than any other man. OUR 40th YEAR.

I WILL TRAIN YOU AT HOME FOR GOOD PAY JOBS IN RADIO-TELEVISION

America's Fast Growing Industry Offers You Good Pay—Bright Future—Security

I TRAINED THESE MEN

"Started to repair sets six months after enrolling. Earned $12 to $15 a week in spare time."—Adam Kramlik, Jr., Bunceytown, Pennsylvania.

"Up to our necks in Radio-Television work. Four other NRI men work here. Am happy with my work."—Giles Pearson, Bradford, Ont., Canada.

"Am doing Radio and Television Servicing full time. Now have my own shop. I owe my success to N.R.I."—Curtis Stath, Ft. Madison, Iowa.

"Am with WCOC. NRI course can't be beat. No trouble passing 1st. class Radio-phone license exam."—Jesse W. Parker, Meridian, Mississippi.

"By graduation, had paid for course, car, trading equipment. Can service toughest jobs."—E. J. Stretenberger, New Boston, Ohio.

Training plus opportunity is the PERFECT COMBINATION for job security, good pay, advancement. In good times, the trained man makes the BETTER PAY, GETS PROMOTED. When jobs are scarce, the trained man enjoys GREATER SECURITY. NRI training can help assure you more of the better things of life.

Start Soon to Make $10, $15 a Week Extra Fixing Sets

Keep your job while training. I start sending you special booklets that show you how to fix sets the day you enroll. Multitester built with parts I send helps you make $10, $15 a week extra fixing sets while training. Many start their own Radio-Television business with spare time earnings.

My Training Is Up-To-Date

You benefit by my 40 years' experience training men at home. Well illustrated lessons give you basic principles you need. Skillfully developed kits of parts I send (see below) "bring to life" things you learn from lessons.

AVAILABLE TO VETERANS UNDER G.I. BILLS

You Learn by Practicing with Parts I Send

Nothing takes the place of PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE. That's why NRI training is based on LEARNING BY DOING. You use parts I furnish to build many circuits common to Radio and Television. As part of my Communications Course, you build many things, including low power transmitter shown at left. You put it "on the air," perform procedures required of broadcasting operators. With my Servicing Course you build modern Radio, etc. Use Multitester you build to make money fixing sets. Many students make $10, $15 week extra fixing neighbors' sets in spare time while training. Coupon below will bring book showing other equipment you build. It's all yours to keep.

The Tested Way To Better Pay!

Television Making Good Jobs, Prosperity—Even without Television, Radio is bigger than ever. 115 million home and auto Radios to be serviced. Over 3000 Radio broadcasting stations use operators, technicians, engineers. Government, Aviation, Police, Ship, Micro-wave Relay, Two-Way Radio Communications for buses, taxis, trucks, etc., are important and growing fields. Television is moving ahead fast.

About 200 Television stations are now on the air. Hundreds of others being built. Good TV jobs opening up for Technicians, Operators, etc.

25 million homes now have Television sets. Thousands more are being sold every week. Get a job or have your own business selling, installing, servicing.

Radio-TV Needs Men of Action—Mail Coupon

Act now to get more of the good things of life. Actual lesson proves my training is practical, thorough. 64-page book shows good job opportunities for you in many fields. Take NRI training for as little as $5 a month. Many graduates make more than total cost of training in two weeks. Mail coupon now. J. E. SMITH, President, National Radio Institute, Dept. 4MK3, Washington 9, D. C. OUR 40TH YEAR.

Good for Both—FREE

MR. J. E. SMITH, President, Dept. 4MK3
National Radio Institute, Washington 9, D. C.
Mail me Sample Lesson and 64-page Book, FREE. (No salesman will call. Please write plainly.)

Name ..... Age .....

Address .....

City ..... Zone ..... State .....

VETS write in date of discharge .....

We will send you the wonderful prizes pictured on this page . . . or dozens of others, such as jewelry, radium dial wrist watches, tableware, tools, U-Make-It kits, leather kits, sewing kits, electric clocks, pressure cookers, scout equipment, model airplanes, movie machines, record players, and many others . . . all WITHOUT ONE PENNY OF COST. You don't risk or invest a cent—we send you everything you need ON TRUST. Here's how easy it is: Merely show your friends and neighbors inspiring, beautiful Religious Wall Motto plaques. Many buy six or even more to hang in every room. An amazing value, only 35c sell on sight. You can secure big, cash commissions or many exciting prizes for selling just one set of 24 Mottos. Write today for Big Prize catalog sent to you FREE!

SEND NO MONEY—We Trust You!

HERE'S HOW YOU GET YOUR PRIZES

Rush your name and address on coupon and we will ship AT ONCE PREPAID your first set of 24 richly decorated Mottos ON TRUST. When you have sold the 24 Mottos, send the $8.40 you have collected and you can secure your choice of many wonderful prizes. If you prefer to EARN MONEY, send $8.00 and keep $2.40. Hurry, send TODAY for 24 Mottos ON TRUST and big PRIZE CATALOG FREE!

FREE!

MEMBERSHIP in the FUNman's Fun Club

EXTRA! Sell mottos and send payment within 15 days, and we'll give you FREE a year's Membership in the FUNman's Fun Club. Membership card, certificate, secret code, giant packet of fun materials all yours—PLUS many extra surprises!

SEND NO MONEY . . . We Trust You!

The FUNman, Dept. L-109, 4545 N. Clark St., Chicago 40, Ill. **FREE BIG PRIZE CATALOG**

Please rush to me on credit 24 Religious Wall Mottos, to sell at 35c each. Also include big Prize Catalog FREE. I will remit amount required as explained under description of prize in BIG PRIZE CATALOG within 30 days and select the prize I want or keep a cash commission as explained.

NAME ..... AGE .....

STREET or RFD .....

TOWN ..... Zone ..... STATE .....